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Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/472,290

Examiner

Mary J. Steelman

Applicant(s)

PATEL ET AL.

Art Unit

2191

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 7/12/2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-20.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date 9/29/2005.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____



TUAN DAM
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office Action is in response to Appeal Brief received 7/12/2005. Prior Final Office action is hereby withdrawn. Prosecution has been reopened in view of Applicant's remarks on page 17, last paragraph. It is clear to Examiner from the Remarks that invention is intended to encompass 3 devices: (1) a server, (2) a remote terminal, and (3) workstations. Claims 1-20 are pending.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Christopher N. George, Reg. No. 51,728 on 30 September 2005.

Independent claims 1, 5, 14, 17, and 19 have been amended.

The application has been amended as follows:

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IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for remotely enhancing a picture archiving and communication system, said method comprising:

establishing, by a remote terminal, a network connection with a web-based server;

remotely connecting, by said web-based server, to a plurality of picture archiving and communication system workstations;

reporting a detected error at one or more of said plurality of picture archiving and communication system workstations, to the web-based server;

periodically providing software for installation, by said remote terminal, to [a] said plurality of picture archiving and communication system workstations in response to [an error detected by at least one workstation] said detected error;

[reporting the error to the web-based server;]

directing, by said remote terminal, the web-based server to simultaneously install the software to [the] said plurality of picture archiving and communication system workstations in communication with [the] said web-based server; and

simultaneously installing software to [the] said plurality of picture archiving and communication system workstations.

5. (Currently Amended) A method for remotely monitoring a picture archiving and communication system, said method comprising:

establishing a network connection with a web-based server from a remote terminal;

directing, by said remote terminal, said [the] web-based server to retrieve data from at least one file, from at least one of a plurality of picture archiving and communication system workstations in communication with [the] said web-based server, [the] said data including a log containing an error indicator;

retrieving [the] , by said web-based server, said data from said at least one file;

transmitting [the], by said web-based server, said data to a remote terminal;

identifying, by said remote terminal, an error occurring at at least one of said plurality of picture archiving and communication system workstations based on said error indicator in said data; and

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directing, by said remote terminal, said web-based server in updating software stored on at least one of said plurality of picture archiving and communication system workstations to correct said error.

14. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for remotely monitoring a picture archiving and communication system comprising:

a remote first terminal in communication with a web-based server via a network connection, said remote first terminal comprising a remote signal generated in response to an error detected by a picture archiving and communication system workstation;

a plurality of picture archiving and communication system workstations connected to said web-based server; and

said web-based server comprising a data retriever for retrieving data from at least one of said plurality of picture archiving and communication system workstations responsive to said remote signal [,];

said web-based server, responsive to a signal generated by said remote terminal, providing remote identification and correction of an error at at least one of said plurality of picture archiving and communication system workstations, by updating software stored on at least one of said plurality of picture archiving and communication system workstations.

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17. (Currently Amended) A method for remotely monitoring a picture archiving and communication system, said method comprising:

connecting, by a remote terminal, to a web-based server on a network;

instructing [the] , by said remote terminal, said web-based server to extract log data from each of a plurality of picture archiving and communication system workstations in communication with [the] said web-based server, wherein [the] said log data indicates an error occurring at [the] one or more of said plurality of picture archiving and communication system workstations;

transmitting [the], by said web-based server, said log data to [a] said remote terminal for analysis of [the] said error; and

remotely correcting [the] said error at [the] said plurality of picture archiving and communication system workstations from [a] said remote terminal using [the] said web-based server.

19. (Currently Amended) A method for remotely enhancing a picture archiving and communication system, said method comprising:

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connecting to a web-based server from a remote terminal on the Internet;

instructing [the], by said remote terminal, said web-based server to update pre-existing software on a plurality of picture archiving and communication system workstations in communication with [the] said web-based server;

simultaneously updating, by said web-based server, said pre-existing software on [the] said plurality of picture archiving and communication system workstations.

THE END

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 1-20 are allowed.
4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Zur (USPN 6,178,225), Allison et al (USPN 6,094,531) and Kobata (USPN 6,321,348) and other cited prior arts, taken alone or in combination, fail to disclose, "a picture archiving and communication system, establishing, by a remote terminal, a network connection with a web-based server, remotely connecting, by said web-based server, to a plurality of picture archiving and communication system workstations, reporting a detected error at one or more of said plurality of picture archiving and communication system workstations, to the web-based server, periodically providing software for installation, by said remote terminal, to said plurality of picture archiving and communication system workstations in response to said detected error, directing, by said remote terminal, said web-based server to simultaneously install the software to said plurality of picture archiving and communication system workstations in communication with said web-based server; simultaneously installing software to said plurality of picture archiving and communication system workstations", as recited in independent claim 1, and similarly in all remaining independent claims, claims 5, 11, 14, 17, and 19. Such a combination of limitations would not be obvious over prior art. Thus all remaining dependent claims, claims 2-4, 6-10, 12, 13, 15, 16, 18, and 20 are allowed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue

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fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mary Steelman, whose telephone number is (571) 272-3704. The examiner can normally be reached Monday through Thursday, from 7:00 AM to 5:30 PM. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tuan Q. Dam can be reached at (571) 272-3695. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

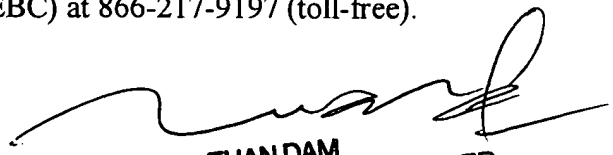
Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the TC 2100 Group receptionist: 571-272-2100.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Mary Steelman



09/30/2005



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